

**RESTORATION INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM
FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITES (FUDS)
PROJECT FACT SHEET
22 December 1997
TAG REVIEW DATE: 28 January 1998**

1. SITE NAME: Fort Dupont
SITE NUMBER: C03DE052800

LOCATION:
City: Delaware City
County: New Castle
State: Delaware

PROJECT NUMBER: C03DE052804

CATEGORY: OE

INPR RAC: 2

ASR RAC: 3

TAG RAC: 3

2. POCs:

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3. SITE DESCRIPTION: Fort Dupont consisted of approximately 321.6 acres of land in New Castle County, Delaware. Currently, the entire site is owned by the State

of Delaware and used by several state and private agencies for Fort Dupont State Park, Governor Bacon Health Center (nursing home) and the Delaware River.

4. SITE HISTORY:

a. 1860's - Ten Gun Battery

The first military presence on project lands was Ten Gun Battery. Ten Gun Battery was built in 1864 as an auxiliary battery to Fort Delaware. However, no acquisition documentation is available. Ten Gun Battery was never completed as designed, as only four 10" Rodmans and two 15" Rodmans were ever mounted. By 1868, all armament at Ten Gun Battery had been dismantled and removed and by 1870, the entire battery was abandoned. It is unknown whether or not the guns at Ten Gun Battery ever conducted service or practice firing.

b. 1871 to 1899 - Twenty Gun Battery

On 12 September 1871, the United States purchased 62.33 acres of land to construct a new, larger battery where Ten Gun Battery had been. This new battery, known as Twenty Gun Battery, was never completed as funding for its construction was halted in 1875. No more than three of Twenty Gun Battery's guns were operable at any one time, and it is unknown whether or not they were ever fired. Even though Twenty Gun Battery was never completed, a small contingent remained at the site. From 1897 to 1899 the site began to develop as the mortar battery and 8" and 12" rifle batteries were constructed.

c. 1899 to 1922 - Fort DuPont as a Coast Artillery Installation

On 13 July 1899, the site was officially named Fort DuPont. An additional 111.5 acres were acquired on 24 July 1899 and 95.5 acres were acquired on 8 December 1904. In 1900 and 1903, Fort DuPont constructed a 5" rapid fire gun battery and a 3" rapid fire gun battery, respectively. During this time frame, Fort DuPont conducted frequent service and subcaliber practice firing of all its weapons. The impact area was in the Delaware River, as targets were towed in the river. The coast artillery units stationed at Fort DuPont also helped train National Guard and Army Reserve units during the summers. By WWI, most of the armament at Fort DuPont had been removed, as only eight of the original sixteen 12" mortars and the 3" gun battery remained. However, in 1918, two 3" anti-aircraft gun emplacements were constructed at the site.

d. 1922 to 1940 - Fort DuPont as an Engineer Post

In 1922, Engineer units took over Fort DuPont as the Coast Artillery was reduced to a caretaker status. The Engineers primarily performed pontoon and bridge training, but were also involved in the training of National Guard and Army Reserve units and the Citizens Military Training Corps. During the 1920s and 1930s, Fort

DuPont was involved in the dredging and widening of the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal. The improvements in the canal resulted in 52.27 acres being added to Fort DuPont's acreage.

e. 1940 to 1947 - WWII Era and Closing

The WWII era saw a resurgence of coast artillery activity at Fort DuPont. Although no weapons firing occurred during this time, coast artillery units were actively involved in training new recruits that were to be stationed in Panama. Engineer barge and dredge crews remained at the site, but the bulk of their forces had been transferred to other posts. By 31 August 1943, no armament whatsoever remained at Fort DuPont. On 4 May 1946, the site was declared excess by the War Assets Administration and on 28 January 1947, the entire site was transferred to the State of Delaware.

f. 1947 to Present

Shortly after the State of Delaware acquired Fort DuPont in 1947, the Governor Bacon Health Center (GBHC) was opened. The GBHC was established to provide care and treatment to mentally ill children, care to handicapped children, placement service for foster children and nursing care for the elderly. Today, the State of Delaware still owns the entire 321.6 acres and the GBHC still provides health services primarily to the elderly. The former Fort DuPont is also currently home to several other Delaware State agencies, which use the site for a variety of purposes.

5. PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Area A:

Size, Acres:	41.5
Former Use:	Battery, Magazine and Rifle Range Area
Present Use:	State Park
Probable End Use:	State Park
Ordnance Presence:	Uncontaminated
Type:	N/A

Area B:

Size, Acres:	2.8
Former Use:	Dump
Present Use:	Dump Site, State Park
Probable End Use:	State Park
Ordnance Presence:	Uncontaminated
Type:	N/A

Area C:

Size, Acres: 277.3
Former Use: Remaining Land (Cantonment Area)
Present Use: Offices, Offices, Nursing Home
Probable End Use: State Park
Ordinance Presence: Uncontaminated
Type: N/A

Area D:

Size, Acres: 6,158 (Additional Acreage)
Former Use: Water Impact Area
Present Use: Delaware River
Probable End Use: Commercial, recreational, river traffic
Ordinance Presence: Potential
Type: Large Caliber Projectiles

6. CURRENT STATUS: This Draft Archives Search Report (ASR) was completed by Rock Island District in September 1997.

7. STRATEGY: Areas A, B and C: No Further Action (NOFA)
Area D: EE/CA

8. ISSUES AND CONCERNS: The Huntsville Center Technical Advisory Group reviewed this ASR on 28 January 1998 and concurred with the strategy of the ASR.

All acreage for the former Fort DuPont (proper) has been accurately covered by the existing FDE. However, historical documentation clearly shows that Fort DuPont used a portion of the Delaware River as an impact area during service and practice firings. This acreage was never acquired by the Government, but was definitely used by Fort DuPont. Therefore, preliminary assessment actions are needed to include this impact area in the DERP-FUDS program. Recommend the site FDE be amended to include this additional acreage.

An EE/CA is recommended for Area D. Although most of this area lies beyond 100 yards of mean high tide, the area is in a navigation channel that undergoes periodic dredging. Therefore, it is a special case where a public exposure pathway exists and should be added to the inventory database.

The Delaware Division of Parks and Recreation is in the process of restoring portions of the site for use as the Fort DuPont State Park. Fort DuPont State Park

consists of approximately 184 acres along the Delaware River and land around the old batteries. Long term plans call for the batteries to be refurbished and for camping grounds and trails to be established.

According to the Delaware Natural Heritage Program, one state protected plant species, the Bur-marigold, has been reported in the past to exist in this area. No other protected plant or animal species are known to exist in the Fort DuPont area. Prior to any removal action at the site, it is recommended that the Delaware Natural Heritage Program be contacted for an up-to-date listing of protected wildlife species.

The Delaware State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) is currently evaluating a draft National Register nomination for the entire 321.6 acres of Fort DuPont. It is expected that the nomination will meet the required criteria once revisions have been made. In the event of any removal action on the site, it is recommended that the SHPO be contacted for a current re-evaluation of site conditions and removal action guidelines.

[Return to State List index page](#)

[Return to OE Home Page](#)